

RCRA Orientation Manual

THIS MANUAL WAS DEVELOPED BY:

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FOREWORD

This manual supersedes the *2008 RCRA Orientation Manual*. The *Manual* has proven to be a popular and valuable resource for anyone working with EPA's solid and hazardous waste management program. Since the manual's initial publication in 1990, the RCRA program has evolved dramatically. As a result of changes in the dynamics of solid and hazardous waste management, as well as changes in the regulatory expectations and demands of government, public, and private entities, the RCRA program has been modified through new regulations, policies, Agency-wide initiatives, and Congressional mandates. The *Manual's* revision reflects the progress that has been made in the program and documents its changes.

At this time, the RCRA Subtitle C hazardous waste regulatory framework is completely in place, and almost all states are implementing large portions of the program. EPA has achieved significant progress in establishing provisions to fully protect both ground water and air resources. Under Subtitle D, the establishment of municipal solid waste landfill criteria ensures adequate protection of human health and the environment from solid waste disposal practices. In addition, the Agency has significantly expanded initiatives to reduce the amount of waste generated and to make waste management more efficient.

Information about RCRA's past, present, and future are contained in two other documents. For a look ahead, *Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead* suggests a roadmap for the future based on materials management—fulfilling human needs and prospering, while using less materials, reducing toxics and recovering more of the materials used. For a look back at past successes, the report *25 Years of RCRA: Building on Our Past to Protect Our Future* commemorates RCRA's 25th Anniversary in October 2001 and highlights the accomplishments of RCRA's protective framework to date. In addition, *RCRA: Reducing Risk from Waste* provides an overview of RCRA including: the history of RCRA, the role of EPA and the states, the regulated community, and municipal and industrial waste issues.

